Excavations undertaken by ASI

5086. SHRIBHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRIDEVLPRAS AD SINGH:

Will the Minister ofTOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and have finalised a detailed report on these excavations; and

(b) if so, the major sites of excavations and how many of them date-back to the 1950s, date-wise and site-wise?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b)The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Involvement of ASI employees in smuggling of precious idols

5087. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister ofTOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some precious stone idols from South India dating back to 15th and 16th century on sale in the capital were recently seized by CB1 in a fourth such incident during the last six months and out of them, three relate to idols from South India;

(b) whether Government have critically analysed the involvement of officers from Archaeological Survey of India team in this illegal trade;

(c) whether Government have since apprehended the smugglers involved in these incidents; and

(d) if not, the latest progress of the cases?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) As per the information given by the Central Bureau of Investigation, two registered antiquities and nine registered stone idols from South India were seized by them in Delhi on 03-01-2002 and 11.03.2002 respectively during the last six months.

(b) the Central Bureau of Investigation have registered cases against both the firms M/s Natesan Antiquarts, New Delhi and M/s Artefacts, Bangalore. However, involvement of the officers of the Archaeological Survey of India have not been found so far.

(c) and (d) No one has been apprehended so far and both the cases are under investigation.

Stamp Duty

5088. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stipulated stamp duty on property sale ranges from 8 to 14 per cent but the duty on transfer of equity is just 0.5 per cent of the sale price;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the process, the buyers will be able to save about Rs. 200 crores on stamp duty;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that ITDC has alreadey utilized this method for its 22 properties, 4 hotels which are stated to be sold on long-term lease-cum-management contract; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed by Governemnt to save the stamp duty?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) On the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission the Government had decided that the hotels of ITDC other than those in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be demerged into separate companies with the shadow shareholding pattern of ITDC and for disinvestment of 100% Government shareholding in these demerged companies. Ministry of Disinvestment has informed that each of the hotel units have been/would be sold on a 'going concern' basis and not in the form of real estate. Therefore, all contracts, assets, liabilities, litigations and employees of the hotel units would also be transferred to the respective bidders. The rate of stamp duty on transfer of real estate varies from State to State.

Fully paid up shares of these demerged companies have been/would be sold to the selected bidders. The stamp duty on transfer of shares is 0.5% of the sale consideration. Since the hotel properties of ITDC are not being sold on real estate basis, it would be inappropriate to evaluate the likely stamp duty collection by the Government on the real estate part of the 'going concern'.

The bidding process allows the bidders to assess their total liability on assuming the sale of the property as 'going concern'. Therefore, if they had to pay a higher stamp duty, they would have factored this into their bid and would